श्री अनन्तराय देवशंकर ढवे : मेरा पाइन्ट आफ आर्डर है । आपने स्टेटमेंट के लिए अपनी रूलिंग दे दी है तो उस पर कोई क्वेश्चन नहीं हो सकता है ।

उपसभाध्यक्ष (श्री शंकर दयाल सिंह) : माननीय सदस्य का कहना ठीक है । अहलुवालिया जी, आप बैठ जाइये । श्री सुरेन्द्रजीत सिंह अहलुवालिया : यह सदन की परम्परा का सवाल है । ... **(व्यवधान)**

उपसभाध्यक्ष (श्री शंकर दयाल सिंह) : अहलुवालिया जी, आप बिना मेरे आदेश के बोल रहे हैं, इसलिए यह रिकार्ड पर नहीं जाएगा ।

श्री सुरेन्द्रजीत सिंह अहलुवालिया :*

6.00 P.M.

उपसभाध्यक्ष (श्री शंकर दयाल सिंह) : चेयर ने क्या कहा आप इस पर नहीं जाएं । मैंने यह इस स्टेटमेंट के लिए दिया है चंकि यह जरुरी है । मैं जल संसाधन मंत्री जी से कहूंगा कि वह अपना स्टेटमेंट दें ।

डा० रत्नाकर पाण्डेय (उत्तर प्रदेश) : जो अहलुवालिया जी ने उठाया है, वह रूल में है या नहीं है ?

उपसभाध्यक्ष (श्री शंकर दयाल सिंह) : मैंने इसके पहले अपनी रूलिंग दे दी है । **(व्यवधान)**

श्री ईश दत्त यादव : आप यह आदेश करें कि कम से कम दो घंटे पहले यह एजेंडा पर आ जाएं कि फलां मंत्री स्टेटमेंट दे रहे हैं ।

उपसभाध्यक्ष (श्री शंकर दयाल सिंह) : यादव जी, आपने जो सुझाव दिया है उसके अनुसार ही सरकार कार्यवाही करेगी । **(व्यवधान)**

श्री शब्बीर अहमद सलारिया : यह तो बिजनेस एडवाइजरी कमेटी कर सकती हैं, आप कैसे नया इमकान करेंगे ?

(उपसभाध्यक्ष (श्री शंकर दयाल सिंह) : जल संसाधन मंत्री ।

*Not recorded.

STATEMENT(S) BY MINISTER(S)

I. Casualties from excessive Floods in Wardha River in Maharashtra and in Upper Indravathi river in Orissa

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI VIDYA CHARAN SHUKLA): Sir, According to the reports received from the Government of Maharashtra, there were excessive rains in the catchment of the Wardha river falling in the districts of Betul and Chindwara in Madhya Pradesh and also heavy rains in Nagpur and Wardha districts of Maharashtra. The rainfall in Betul was 400 mm in 24 hours upto the morning of 30th July, 1991. The rainfall in the Narkheda tehsil of Nagpur district was 350 mm in the 24 hours. This resulted in excessive floods in the Wardha river on the night of 29th July, 1991. The flood waters entered the town of Mohad situated on the banks of Wardha rver near the confluence of ite tributary, Kolar. The village protection embankment constructed for the village along the banks of the Wardha River gave way and flood waters rushed into the village by 4.30 early in the morning on 30th July, 1991.

Because of the excessive rains in the region the road communication has been distrupted. Establishing immediate contacts with the villages has become difficult. The preliminary reports received from Mohad and other 4 effected villages of the Narkheda tehsil of District Nagpur (namely, Jalalkheda, Khairgaon, Bhugaon and Madana) indicate the number of missing or dead persons to be about 119 in Nagpur district. In addition, in Amaravati District, 2 persons are reported to be missing or dead from the 22 villages which have been affected by the floods. About 5000 houses are reported to have collapsed by the impact of the floods and about 750 cattle are also reported to have been washed away.

There have been some reports in the press that the Tank at Nakthan on the

tributory of Wardha river has breached. But, the Irrigation Department of Maharashtra has confirmed that the Minor Dam at Nakthan is intact and has not added to the rush of waters that affected the Mohad Village.

The District Collectors and other Senior Officers of the Government of Maharashtra have reached the affected areas and have started immediate relief operations. Army has been called in for rescuing the marooned population of Mohad Town and they have commenced their work.

According to the reports received from the Orissa State Government, due to heavy rainfall of about 900 mm in the catchment area of River Indravathi, there have been heavy floods in the river. The Upper Indravathi Project located in the district Kalahandi is under construction. The Coffer dam built for protecting the construction work-site was over topped due to which waters rushed into the headrace tunnel under construction for the power house.

In the tunnel, as per first information received from the Additional District Magistrate, the work was being carried out by about 27 workers. However, according to the latest information received from the State Government only 15 persons were working in the tunnel. The District authorities immediately started rescue operations on the 29th July and 7 dead bodies of the workers are reported to have been recovered by 30th July, 1991. The Minister of State, PWD and the State Engineer-in-Chief have gone to the site on 30th July, 1991 and are organising rescue and relief operations. The State Government have decided to give Rs. 25,000/- to each family of the dead persons as well as a suitable job to one member of the family of the deceased. Further, a High Level Committee headed by the Development Commissioner, Orissa, alongwith a panel of engineers has been formed to enquire into the said incedence.

II. Increase in the rates of Royalty on Coal

THE MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI P. A. SANGMA): Sir, Mines and Minerals (Regulation and Development) Act, 1957 empowers the Central Government to levy as also enhance the rates of royalty on minerals. Before February, 1987 the rates could be enhanced one in four years. Subsequently the Act has been amended and rates of royalty can now be enhanced every three years.

The rates of roaylty on coal were last revised in February, 1981. The next revision could have taken place in February, 1985, However, the rates had not been revised uptil now because most of the coal producing states were levying very high rates of cesses on coal. These cesses differed from State to State and the total income to the various State Governments from these cesses was many times more than the income from royalty.

Since the rates of cess were very high, some petitioners approached the courts. In a judgement dated 26.10.1989 in the case of India Cement versus State of Tamil Nadu, the Supreme Court held that State Governments are not competent to levy a cess on minerals or mineral rights. Following this judgement, other court have also been striking down the cesses levied by other States.

Since the income from cesses to the State Govenments was quite substantial the fiinances of coal producing State Governments were affected adversely by these decisions of the Courts. They had, therefore, approached the Central Government to enhance to rates of royalty.

In the case of State of West Bengal the levy of cesses at high rates is being continued except in cases where the consumers have obtained stay orders. Similarly in the case of Assam, also the levy of cess at high rates is being continued.